



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

On August 6th we celebrated the anniversary of one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation in American history. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical and a clear victory for the forces of good, who wanted more participation and inclusion, over the forces of evil who wanted to shut people out and disenfranchise them. We are better, a stronger nation, when our collective voice is heard. When everyone can participate.

We are here to celebrate and we should, but do not let our celebration today, and the joy of a past triumph for good over evil, fog our vision. Today we are again facing threat from the same evil as it works to disenfranchise the same people again- people who had skin a certain color, less money, or simply less societal influence.

Many of my Republican colleagues choose to limit democracy when we should expand it. I am talking about voter I.D. legislation, reductions to early voting, and destroying the Government Accountability Board which was created to keep politician in check. It is our duty to fight these measures and those responsible for them as hard and as long as it takes.

Do these measures look the same as the voter suppression we faced before? No. It is 2015, not 1965, and now their efforts are not quite as transparent, but make no mistake the same forces, the same energy that was behind that evil of the past, is behind these efforts today. We need to ensure all people vote with measures like mandatory voter registration. We need community members to tell their sister, their aunt, their barber, their teachers, their friends when Election Day is coming and what they will need to do if they do not know.

So today I ask you to help. Spread the information, bring people to the next election, so that 50 years from now people can celebrate another victory, a victory over the evil that works to keep people down.

As a great man declared:

What we got to say? Power to the people, no delay. To make everybody see, in order to fight the powers that be!